THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to construct new airports at pilgrim centres at present. The policy of the Government is to retain the name of the city in the case of domestic airports to the extent possible.

**Expansion of Air Services from Bhubaneswar**

3253. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware the Bhubaneswar is an important religious and tourist-cum-business centre of Orissa;

(b) whether Government are also aware that it is a Regional Software Centre where inputs are derived from Bangalore and other software centres of the country;

(c) whether lack of adequate airlinks with these centres in the main impediment in its efforts for development; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide air-link between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore and also with other important software centres of the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Bhubaneswar is presently linked to Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vizag and Raipur by regular Indian Airlines/Alliance air services. Indian Airlines has no plans to air link Bhubaneswar with Bangalore. However, same day connection is available on four days of the week from Bhubaneswar to Bangalore *via* Chennai. In the return direction, same day connection is available from Bangalore to Bhubaneswar *via* Kolkata on four days of the week. In the summer schedule effective from 30.03.2003, Alliance Air has increased the frequency of Hyderabad-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata services from three to four days per week.

**Upgradation of Airports in Tripura**

3254. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have decided to take in regard to upgradation of the airports in Kamalpur, Kailashahar and Dharmanagar in Tripura;

(b) whether short services of small aircrafts within the State of Tripura connecting important towns are planned to be introduced;

(c) whether a network of short services of aircraft connecting important cities within the north-east region has also been contemplated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Airports at Kamalpur and Kailashahar belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has no plan, at present, to upgrade these airports as no airlines has requested for operation of their scheduled flights through these airports. No airport exists at Dharmanagar.

(b) At present, a number of scheduled flights of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air with B-737, A-320 and ATR-42 type aircraft are available from Kolkata, Guwahati and Silchar to Agartala in the State of Tripura. Additional flights are also provided by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air from Agartala from time to time as per traffic demand.

(c) and (d) Alliance Air has provided air services with ATR-42 aircraft to link Guwahati with Agartala, Lilabari, Silchar, Aizwal and Dimapur, Kolkata with Aizwal, Shillong, Agartala, Dimapur and Silchar and Silchar with Agartala in the North East Region (NER). However, airlines are free to operate their services to any specific places in India including NER depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of the route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

**Development of International Airports**

3255. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a second international airport in the vicinity of New Delhi on Agra-Noida Express way;

(b) if so, by when work on development of this airport is likely to commence; and

(c) the other places where international airports are proposed to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Uttar Pradesh Government has a proposal to set up an airport at a site, which is located at 72 kms. from